

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19, 21, 24 and 27-40 are pending in the present application. Claim 16 is amended, Claims 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26 are cancelled and Claims 27-40 are added by the present amendment. Support for additions to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed, for example, on pages 21-25 & 29 and Figures 13 and 17.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 16-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shimane et al. (U.S. Patent 6,923,279, herein "Shimane"); and Claims 16-25 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, Claim 16 has been amended as suggested by the outstanding Office Action. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph of Claims 16-26 be withdrawn.

In view of the rejection of Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shimane, Claim 26 has been cancelled by the present response. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 26 is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 27-40 also patentably distinguish over Shimane.

Shimane discloses a power supply apparatus for a vehicle that includes a main battery 10, an auxiliary battery 60, a motor 40, a power drive circuit 30, a junction box 20, and a DC/DC converter 50 connected as shown in Figure 2. According to the diagram of the circuit of Shimane shown in Figure 2, the AC voltage of motor 4 is converted by the power drive

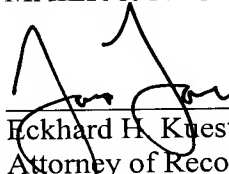
unit 30 to a DC voltage to be supplied to batteries 10 and 60, as disclosed by Shimane at column 10, lines 29-32.

However, Shimane does not describe or suggest the features of newly added Claims 27-40. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that newly added Claims 27-40 patentably distinguish over Shimane.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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